

# Indiana Department of Education



## Division of Exceptional Learners

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## **Task Force on Autism Spectrum Disorders March 13, 2006, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

### **Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Gary Collings, Naomi Swiezy; Liz Freeman-Floyd, Bob Mara, Leah Nellis, Loui Lord Nelson, Susan Pieples, Cathy Pratt, Ann Schnepf, Kristen Schunk, Lilia Teninty, Greg Wilson, Sheila Wolfe

#### **1) Welcome**

Naomi Swiezy and Gary Collings welcomed everyone to the meeting and expressed appreciation for everyone's willingness to participate in this important effort to improve personal and educational outcomes for children with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

#### **2) Introduction of Members**

Each member of the Task Force introduced themselves and spoke briefly about the organization or entity they represent, their involvement with ASD and what they hoped will result from participation on this Task Force. Common themes of collaboration, cooperation, working to find solutions, and creating a 'blanket of support' emerged.

#### **3) Department of Education Overview**

Bob Marra, Assistant Superintendent, gave a thorough presentation on the role of Department of Education and the Division of Exceptional Learners. The presentation included information on the State Advisory Council, current DEL projects related to ASD, government funding streams, ASD related statistical information, Due Process, alternative assessment systems and the residential placement program. Members of the Task Force were provided copies of the presentation.

#### **4) Article 7**

Nina Brahm, from the DEL, spoke about the recent changes to IDEIA and the efforts to update Indiana's Article 7. Her presentation included information on changes to IDEIA, how it is being implemented today, and what issues will be decided with completion of the federal rule promulgation process. Indiana is working to update Article 7, but will not complete the process until the federal rules are finalized. A copy of her presentation was provided to Task Force members.

#### **5) Wrap-up and Next Steps**

The group agreed to meet the second Monday of each month. The next meeting will cover Medicaid waivers and additional information on the Task Force activities and overall process will be discussed.